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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/014,297 01/27/98 BROWN

F LI30-001

021567 LM02/0726
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EXAMINER

CHOI, K

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2763

DATE MAILED:

07/26/99

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/014,297

Applicant(s)

Brown

Examiner

Kyle Choi

Group Art Unit

2763



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jan 27, 1998

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 2

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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DETAILED ACTION

1. The above-identified application has been examined on the merits. Claims 1-20 are pending in the instant application.

Priority

2. Applicant's claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) is acknowledged and granted.

Drawings

3. The drawings have been approved by the Draftsperson.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 1-8, 10-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant

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regards as the invention. The following claims lack proper antecedent basis for the following reasons:

a. Claim 1, lines 10-11, recites "the identifying" and "the altering". It is not entirely clear what "the identifying" and "the altering" are. It is suggested that --step-- be added to clarify the recitation (e.g., "the identifying step" and "the altering step").

b. Claim 2, line 3, recites "the identifying". It is suggested that --step-- be added to clarify the recitation. Furthermore, in the same line, "the analyzing the modeled conductor" is awkward.

c. Claim 4, line 1, "the altering the modeled conductor" is awkward.

d. Claim 5, line 2, recites "the analyzing". It is suggested that --step-- be added after "analyzing" to clarify the recitation.

e. Claim 6, line 2, recites "the altering and analyzing". It is suggested that --steps-- be added after "analyzing" to clarify the recitation. Furthermore, "the identifying the another critical span" is awkward.

f. Claim 7, line 2, recites "optimizing". It is suggested that the phrase be amended to read as "an optimizing step..."

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g. Claim 10, line 5, recites "the analyzing". It is suggested that --step-- be added to clarify the recitation.

h. Similar problems are prevalent in claims 11-16, 18-20.

i. The other claims are rejected due to dependence to deficient claims.

Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371© of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

7. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Thompson et al.

Thompson et al. (US Pat. No. 5,574,841) discloses an apparatus and method for designing and maintaining power transmission lines. The system is a collection of computer programs that allow a designer to design a power line from

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scratch or perform analysis on already existing power lines for operational parameters such as transmission line sag due to environmental conditions, aging, etc. including modeling of the power lines and modifications of the designed/existing power line models to analyze and verify design criteria (see at least col. 3, lns. 17-20, 35-37; col. 4, lns. 15-19, 41-42, 54-58). Thompson et al. also teaches using/modeling usage of jumpers, i.e., clamps, (col. 7, lns. 5-6) and the ability to iterate design analysis so that all design criteria are satisfied, i.e., optimization (col. 7, lns. 45-48; col. 19, lns. 42-44). Furthermore, the conductors are not only modeled based on existing operational conditions, but also under extreme conditions to predict its performance (col. 20, lns. 42-44).

As to the identifying of the "critical span", the specification of the present invention describes a "critical span" as the span that needs to be altered to be re-rated, i.e., the span that is under analysis. Such "critical span" is inherently taught in Thompson et al. as the span of transmission line being redesigned and analyzed for conformity to design rules.

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Conclusion

8. No claims allowed.

9. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703)308-9051 (for formal communications intended for entry)

or:

(703)308-1396 (for informal or draft communications labeled "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 2, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor receptionist.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kyle Choi, whose telephone number is (703)306-5845. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 8:00am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone is unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin Teska, can be reached at (703)305-9704.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703)305-3900.

K.C.
July 21, 1999



**ERIC W. STAMBER
PRIMARY EXAMINER**